Steuben County, Indiana
Soil & Water Conservation District

Website (www.steubenswcd.org)
developed using Site Builder
by
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- Provided by the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)
- Affordable for Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- Not sure of availability or price for non SWCD organizations.
Site Builder

- Web based tool
- Provides simple design templates
- Page layout in an easy to use Folder Tree format
- Wide variety of widgets including PayPal, Google Gadgets, and Mapquest, as well as PHP and Java script or HTML
Mission Statement:
We will be the lead facilitator who ensures that the natural resources of Steuben County are used wisely and are there for future generations.

Pond Management Workshop, May 16th
Steuben County Purdue Extension and our office will be holding a Pond Management Workshop on Wednesday May 16th from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm at 6655 W 500 S near Salem Center. Topics will include aquatic weed control, fish stocking, and pond construction. Speakers will include Bill Horan, Area Extension Aquaculture Specialist, and Scott Banfield of Aquatic Enhancement & Survey, Inc.

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New Indiana Water Monitoring Manual
The Indiana Department of Environmental Management in conjunction with Purdue University and several other entities have developed a new Indiana Water Monitoring Manual to assist water monitoring organizations in developing a water monitoring program. Find out more

RISE Up to Reduce Your Storm Water: Communities Building Rain Barrels
We would like to thank those who have supported our RISE Up to Reduce Your Storm Water: Communities Building Rain Barrels program that we have been implementing since the spring of last year. Our goal was to expand our urban conservation by installing 200 rain barrels across Steuben County. Thanks to the tremendous support from the residents of Steuben County we were able to distribute all 200 barrels, and even assembled 40 additional barrels. Click on the following link to watch our 2011 RISE Up to Reduce Your Stormwater Wrap Up video.

Currently there is a limited number of barrels remaining for distribution. It would like to reserve one of the remaining barrels. Please Click Here

Find out more
What is a Soil and Water Conservation District:

Across the United States, nearly 3000 conservation districts - almost one in every county - are helping local people to conserve land, water, forests, wildlife, and related natural resources.

Conservation Districts were originally formed during the days of the Dust Bowl to combat the severe erosion problems caused by intense farming practices. They are local units of state government, established to produce conservation programs for the wise use of natural resources by current and future generations.

Though all Soil and Water Conservation Districts are committed to conservation, each has its own specific goals and objectives.

Locally led by a governing board of 3 elected and 2 appointed Supervisors, who volunteer their time and expertise, along with 2 full-time employees, the Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District is uniquely qualified to mold itself to meet the needs of the local community.
Water Quality:
The lakes and streams of Steuben County are some of the most valuable natural resources in the state of Indiana. Below is a resource on water quality that residents can use to expand their knowledge of water quality issues and ways they can help improve it.

Several organizations, agencies, and colleges are completing water monitoring across the state of Indiana. In efforts to organize the water monitoring being completed by these various entities, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management in conjunction with Purdue University and several other partners has developed Monitoring Water in Indiana: Choices for Nonpoint Source and Other Watershed Projects to assist water monitoring groups in developing a water monitoring program.

E. coli

Research Articles
EPA Ambient Water Quality Criteria 1986
The article discusses how the EPA determined the use of E. coli as a water quality parameter and how the standards were set.
Distribution and Characterization of E. coli within the Dunes Creek Watershed, Indiana Dunes State Park
The article discusses the natural occurrence of E. coli in an Indiana watershed and the effects that it can have on recreational waters.
Website Links
E. coli and Indiana Lakes and Streams
The link is an education/informational site from Purdue University that discusses the effects of E. coli on Indiana water bodies.
NRCS Information About Water

Blue-Green Algae

Research Articles
USGS Harmful Algal Blooms
The link is an informational article produced by the U.S. Geological Survey that explains how HABs are caused, the health risks of HABs, and how to identify a HAB.
Aquatic Invasive Species: Blue-Green Algae
The link is an informational article produced by the Indiana Division of Natural Resources that explains the effects and impacts Blue-Green Algae can have on water bodies. This article provides several educational links about Blue-Green Algae as well.
What is a Watershed?

What is a Watershed?
A watershed refers to an area in which water and sediment drain to a common outlet, such as a larger stream, a lake, or even an ocean. Watersheds have no physical, social, or political boundaries, and therefore, do not necessarily stop at a township, county, or state line. Watersheds can even span across several counties or states.

Watershed boundaries are established for individual lakes, creeks, and rivers. The soil types and elevations for a particular lake or river determine the size of the watershed and where its boundaries lie. Every large watershed is composed of numerous smaller ones and are commonly referred to as sub-watersheds.

What is the Watershed Approach?
The watershed approach is a concept that addresses working with local, state, federal, and private agencies and organizations in identifying the water quality needs and concerns for a particular watershed. This approach allows these agencies and organizations to administer technical and educational assistance based on the characteristics of the individual watershed, while best managing its natural resources—soil, water, air, plants, and animals.

Image courtesy of www.riverwatershed.org